



# **FREEDOM CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF ALBERTA**

**EQUALITY OR INDEPENDENCE**

## **PLATFORM 2019**

- I. RESTORE DEMOCRACY & ACCOUNTABILITY**
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# **RESTORE DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Free votes for MLAs and abolish party whips
- Give voters the right to recall their MLAs
- Allow citizens to initiate referendums and vetoes over legislation
- Give Albertans the right to elect their own Senators
- Cut MLA pay by 5%
- Ban partisan or political content in government advertising
- Ban political lobbying and advocacy by any taxpayer-funded entity
- Radically open up the Freedom of Information process



# RETURN THE ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

## Cut Taxes:

- Reduce the income tax rate to 10%
- Reduce the large business tax rate to 10%
- Abolish the provincial small business tax
- Completely eliminate the carbon tax

## Cut Spending:

- Abolish all corporate welfare subsidies
- Significantly cut wasteful spending
- Balance the province's operating budget within one year
- Balance the province's consolidated budget within four years
- Accomplish this by following the financial plan outlined in our Alternative Budget 2019/20

## Fiscal Accountability:

- End Redford-era accounting and restore transparent accounting principles to the budget process
- Restore and enforce the Government Accountability Act
- Restore and enforce the Fiscal Responsibility Act
- Create an independent Legislative Budget Officer to provide impartial budget and economic projections
- Require the public disclosure of the government's infrastructure priority list

## End Corporate Welfare:

- Withdraw from federal supply management and allow Alberta dairy farmers to produce enough for Alberta's needs
- Privatize government-owned businesses and crown corporations that compete with the private sector
- Privatize the province's liquor and cannabis distribution system, including online sales
- Eliminate all trade, tariff, and non-tariff provincial trade barriers

# MORE ALBERTA, LESS OTTAWA

## **Equality or Independence:**

- Demand that Ottawa end equalization and other major wealth transfers out of Alberta
- Demand that Ottawa give Alberta the same rights as other provinces over immigration, tax collection, Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, and justice
- If Ottawa rejects Alberta's rightful demands for equality, Alberta will hold a referendum on independence

## **End Equalization:**

- Demand that Ottawa end equalization and other wealth transfers out of Alberta
- Replace federal transfers with tax-points, keeping billions of dollars at home and allowing for Alberta to exercise its own control over health and social policy

## **Collect Our Own Taxes:**

- Withdraw from the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) to collect our own taxes
- In the event that the federal government allows Quebec to collect federal taxes, demand the same right for Alberta



# **WORLD CLASS EDUCATION**

## **Grades K-12:**

- **Equally fund all students at certified public, private and separate schools in Alberta and guarantee funding for homeschooling**
- **Pass a Parent's Bill of Rights to guarantee choice and control over education**
- **Cancel the NDP's new curriculum and replace it with measured learning targets allowing school boards to set their own curriculums.**
- **Respect the right of private educational institutions to practice their own religious or cultural beliefs without discrimination**

## **Colleges and Universities:**

- **Revoke funding for institutions that do not protect freedoms of speech, association and assembly**
- **Make student union membership voluntary**
- **Allow post-secondary institutions to partner with K-12 schools to specialize in vocational training**



# GET ALBERTA BACK TO WORK

## Fair Employment Insurance:

- Replace federal EI with an Alberta Workers Insurance with lower premiums and greater flexibility for long-term unemployment and skills re-training
- Create individual AWI accounts allowing workers to collect benefits for longer periods so long as their account is funded
- If at the end of a worker's career they have remaining funds, apply these funds to their retirement

## Alberta Labour Corps:

- Create an Alberta Labour Corps guaranteeing work for all unemployed Albertans on public works projects
- Require all able-bodied adults receiving welfare to work in the Alberta Labour Corps to be eligible for benefits

## A Competitive Workforce:

- Reduce immigration levels at times of high unemployment and increase them in times of low unemployment
- Repeal the NDP-UCP Bill 14 giving companies subsidies for meeting race and gender quotas
- Repeal the NDP's Bill 6 attack on farmers
- End the Workers Compensation Board's monopoly on workplace insurance, allowing for private insurance plans that meet the same standards
- Introduce scaled minimum wages for youth, new hires, trainees, and interns to combat unemployment

## Union Reform:

- Restore the secret ballot for unions
- Make union membership and dues voluntary
- Require unions to provide full line-item budgets, audited financial statements and disclosure of political activities to their members

# UNLEASH ALBERTA ENERGY

## End the Carbon Tax:

- Repeal the general Carbon Tax supported by the NDP, and the industry Carbon Tax supported by the UCP
- Cancel oil production curtailment and supply management
- Join court action against the federal Carbon Tax

## Pipelines and Production:

- Use every tool at our disposal to ensure pipelines are built, including imposing environmental and pine-beetle inspections on all BC lumber coming through our province
- Abolish all caps on production and upgrading
- Reform the Energy Alberta Regulator to fix the application review and approval timeframe delays
- Demand Ottawa sell the TransMountain pipeline back to the private sector
- Demand the repeal of Ottawa's bill C-69 and BC tanker ban

## Affordable Energy:

- Cancel the early closure of coal plants and allow them to remain open if they can meet reasonable environmental standards
- Restore a market-based pricing regime to the electricity industry that secures uninterrupted supply and smooths demand cycles
- End all government subsidies for future renewable energy projects that are not competitive with other sources of energy, and work to wind down current contracts where possible



# A FUTURE FOR SENIORS

## **Alberta Pension Plan:**

- **Replace the CPP with an Alberta Pension Plan with a transfer of current assets and liabilities from Ottawa**
- **An APP will create individualized accounts allowing widows and widowers to collect the full eligibility of pensions of deceased spouses as part of the estate**
- **Allow small business owners to divert up to 50% of their APP contributions towards investment in their own businesses**
- **Exempt Alberta TFSA and RRSP accounts from provincial taxes**





# QUALITY HEALTHCARE

## **Shorten Wait Times and Save Money:**

- **Allow private options for healthcare service provision to reduce cost and shorten wait times**
- **Reduce the number of Alberta Health Services (AHS) managers by one third**
- **Contract out non-core elements of the healthcare system, such as laundry services to reduce costs**
- **Expand the use of parallel, private health systems and insurance to reduce wait times**
- **Allow dentists to advertise and publish costs and reviews**
- **Treat drug addicts as healthcare patients, not criminals**

## **Get Ottawa out of Healthcare:**

- **Demand the end of federal intrusion into provincial jurisdiction over healthcare**
- **Replace federal health transfers with a tax point transfer to Alberta allowing Alberta to provide health services locally that are more efficient and higher quality than those currently managed by Ottawa**

## **STRONG COMMUNITIES**

- **Respect local autonomy by returning control to local municipalities from growth management boards**
- **Restore the right of appeal in the Municipal Government Act**
- **Cancel the NDP's plan to allow municipalities to run budget deficits**
- **Respect and enforce the separate jurisdictions of provincial and municipal government**
- **Replace federal infrastructure transfers with a tax-point transfer to Alberta, allowing Alberta to provide infrastructure services locally that are more efficient and higher quality than those currently managed by Ottawa**



# IMMIGRATION REFORM

- **Alberta will take control over its own immigration within its jurisdiction, as is presently done in Quebec**
- **Establish a new Ministry of Immigration for Alberta**
- **Reduce immigration rates during periods of high unemployment, and increase rates when unemployment is low**
- **Transition taxpayer sponsorship of immigration to private and not-for-profit**
- **Promote Alberta as a destination for skilled economic migrants**
- **Improve Alberta's recognition of qualifications of economic migrants to speed up integration**
- **Require immigrants moving to Alberta to integrate as part of the citizenship process**



# RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

## An Alberta Constitution:

- Create an Alberta Charter of Rights and Responsibilities as part of a new Constitution of Alberta
- Enshrine free speech in the new Charter as our most supreme and inviolable right
- Enshrine property rights in the new Charter and amend any provincial laws necessary for compliance
- Enshrine the right to defend self and property in the new Charter

## End the Nanny-State:

- Abolish predatory photo radar locations
- Amend the Human Rights Act to protect freedom of speech and end nuisance complaints
- Repeal the flavoured tobacco ban for any products not targeted towards minors
- Allow the riding of ATVs without a helmet and extend the Sikh motorcycle helmet exception to Albertans of all faiths
- Allow for the reasonable, limited and orderly consumption of alcohol in public spaces like parks

## Fighting Drugs:

- Shift resources away from prosecuting drug users to catching and prosecuting drug traffickers
- Provide better access and funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities
- Treat drug addicts as healthcare patients, not criminals

## Firearms and Wildlife:

- Take control of the administration, application, and interpretation of the Firearms Act back from Ottawa
- Form an independent committee of the Legislature to appoint a Chief Firearms Officer for Alberta
- Instruct the Chief Firearms Officer to not enforce misclassified firearms restrictions
- Expand the Wilderness Carry Permit to allow hunters, hikers and mountain climbers to apply
- Allow for the strictly defensive shooting of grizzly bears for the purpose of protection of property and people, as is done with cougars.